

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 3-30-07
SB 452

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Officers of the Corporation: March 30, 2007

Rod Ash, chairman

Neil Meyer, vice chairman

Russ Abolt, treasurer

Anne Dahl, president
secretary

Re: Senate Bill 452, Working Forests, Ranches, Farms and Watersheds

The Swan Valley is under extreme pressure as timberlands are being converted to non-timber uses and real estate development is increasing. Opportunities for working families are on the decline, and families that have to work for living can no longer afford to buy a home in the Swan Valley.

Board of Directors:

Russ Abolt

Rod Ash

Steve Ellis

Glen Gray

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Pam Hamilton

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Bill Moore

Stan Nicholson

Tom Parker

Gene Tingle

We are seeing No Trespassing signs on lands long open and cherished for hunting, fishing and huckleberry picking. Native wildlife species, such as grizzly bears and bull trout, are increasingly at risk as second-home development encroaches on their habitat. Homes are being built close to streams, putting water quality at risk. Rural fire fighters are facing growing dangers as more homes are built in this forested landscape, and county resources are stretching thin.

In response to changing land uses and demographics, people in the Swan Valley have been working since 1999 on a multi-partner effort to protect a viable timber economy, wildlife habitat, public access and a rural way of life. Through this partnership effort, over 20,000 acres of timberlands have been protected. In addition, over 22 families in the Swan Valley have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in conservation easements on their land, demonstrating a remarkable commitment to conservation and ensuring that over 5,000 acres of small timber lots will remain productive. Yet with land values soaring, most residents can no longer afford to donate easements and need help.

Advisory Board:

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Jim Burchfield

Bob Cushman

Chuck Harris

C.P. Rowlands

Betsy Spettigue

Many Valued
Volunteers

Over 70,000 acres of industrial timberlands remain at risk of conversion to non-timber uses. Plum Creek is selling land, doling it out little by little, keeping the prices high and out of reach for most Montanans. Yet out-of-state developers have been able to pick up these parcels and exacerbate these problems.

If the Swan Valley and the Mission Mountains Wilderness are going to remain viable components of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem and provide the timber resources and public access all Montanans enjoy, we will need all the tools in the tool box. The Working Forests, Ranches, Farms and Watershed Bill is one practical tool that can help working families remain on their lands and continue managing their timberlands and small ranches for the benefit of all Montanans.

We're asking you to take the issue of timberland conversion seriously. In the Swan Valley, we need to act now or it will soon be too late. Please keep Senate Bill 452 alive and make sure it passes and is signed by the Governor. Thank you.

Anne Dahl, president

March 30, 2007

Re: Senate Bill 452, Working Forests, Ranches, Farms and Watersheds

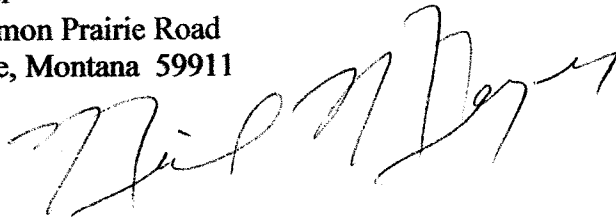
My name is Neil Meyer from the Swan Valley of Northwest, Montana. I've logged all my life and my wife and I have managed the timber on our land and we still have trees for the future. As a 50-plus year resident of this place, myself and others have a deep concern for what is happening. This area has been rural forest-based with woods jobs: logging, outfitting and small ranches. It is the best most diverse, healthy wildlife and fishery in the state and probably the best tree-growing site. Bull trout and endangered species have the best habitat in Montana.

Now the problem we face with land ownership issues: The valley floor is every other section industrial timber ownership, with the balance in state forest, national forest and small private ownership. The industrial land some 80,000 acres is now being put on the real estate market, a few sections at a time for real estate development. Development means land clearing, houses, fences, and No Trespassing signs. The results being a big impact on wildlife and public access and added risk to streams and fisheries.

Our goal is to keep people working in the forest and on the lands. In the Flathead Valley all the black earth is being covered with houses. The farmers need help staying on the land and the woods workers in the woods, wildlife in the woods and fish in the streams.

Hopefully this bill will help.

Neil Meyer
41622 Salmon Prairie Road
Swan Lake, Montana 59911

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Neil Meyer", is written over the printed name and address.